

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the claims to simply overcome the objections and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1, 3-6, 13, and 16 have been canceled by this Amendment B. Claims 2, 7-11, 13, 15, and 17-20 are presented by this Amendment for further consideration.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 17-20 have been amended to address the basis for these rejections. Additionally, a few other minor amendments have also been made in this regard. With the present amendments, the section 112 rejections to claims 17-20 should be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Office action indicates that claims 2, 7-11, 13, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Office action also indicates that claims 17-20 would be allowable if the 112 rejections are addressed and if the claims 17 and 20 are rewritten in independent form.

As noted above, Applicants have amended claims 17 and 20 as necessary to overcome the 112 rejections. Additionally, claims 2, 17, and 20 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the aspects of the intervening claims. As such, claims 2, 17, and 20 are now allowable.

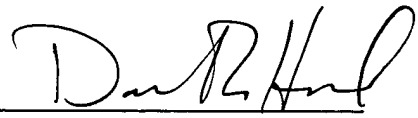
Additionally, claims 7-11, 13, and 15 depend from claim 2 and claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 17. As such, claims 7-11, 13, 15, 18, and 19 are also allowable at least due to their dependencies from allowable claims 2 and 17.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/21/04


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